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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
09/820,143	03/28/2001	Uzodinma Okoroanyanwu	39153/405 (F0945)	3964
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Katherine D. Lee FOLEY & LARDNER Firstar Center			EXAMINER	
			EL SHAMMAA, MARY A	
777 East Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53202-5367			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2881	
			DATE MAILED: 08/06/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary    Examiner			Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Mary A El-Shammaa   2881			09/820,143	OKOROANYANWU ET AL.				
Mary A Ei-Shammaa   2881		Office Action Summary		Art Unit				
The MALING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address - Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Extensions of tens may be evaluated used the previous of 3 CFR 1.138(a). In or event, however, may a reply be limshy filled  If the priod for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply with the statutory priod vall age of the Communication of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.  If the priod for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply the the statutory priod vall age of the Communication of thirty (30) days, and the communication of the comm			Mary A. El-Shammaa					
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Extensions of time may be variable under the growthour of 37 CPR 1.15(a), in no event, however, may a raply be timely filed  If the period for reply separation of time may be variable under the growthour of 37 CPR 1.15(a), in no event, however, may a raply be timely filed  If the period for reply separation of the manual part of the period for reply time of the period for reply villed to the substance priced within the native priced with the maling date of his communication.  Fallows for reply villed to the substance priced with the maling date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any search of the communication.  Fallows for the period to the period of the period of the communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any search of the communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any search of the communication.  This action is FINAL.  2b) This action is non-final.  3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5) Claim(s) 2-2 is/are allowed.  6) Claim(s) 2-2 is/are objected to.  8) Claim(s) 2-2 is/are objected to go the Examiner.  7) Claim(s) 2-2 is/are objected to by the Examiner.  Application Papers  9) The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2001 is/are: and accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  Application Papers  1) Proposed drawings are required in reply to this office action.  12) The proposed drawings correction filed on is all approved by the Examiner.  If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this office action.  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) All b) Some *c) None of:  1, Cert	The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address							
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Edereisms of time may be available under the previouse of 3 CPR 1.136(a). In or event, however, may a reply be limity filled after SIX (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  Falve to reply within the set or edenoide price of the communication.  Falve to reply within the set or edenoide price for reply will, by datable, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S. 2, § 133).  Any loght credit by the Office letter than these empirish after this mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any section of the foreign time and the fill mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any section by the Office due than the time and the fill mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any section place of the communication of the	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •							
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	2) Notice	of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) Notice of Informal F					

41.

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

## Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The U.S Application numbers are missing from the CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.

Appropriate correction is required.

## Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the lines, numbers, and letters are not uniformly thick and well defined, clean durable, and black (poor line quality). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doong (5,747,803).

Regarding claim 1, Doong discloses in Fig. 1 a method of inspecting a surface associated with manufacture of an integrated circuit (10), the method comprising the steps of providing an

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electron beam (e<sup>-</sup>) to the surface; transforming at least a portion of the surface (12); and inspecting the surface using a scanning electron microscope (SEM) wherein the transforming step occurs before the inspecting step (Col. 1, Lines 7-12; Col. 3, Lines 20-47).

Regarding claim 6, Doong discloses the inspecting step including at least one of preventing volatile species from leaving the surface and substantially dissipating a charge built up in the surface (Col. 2, Lines 15-24, 34-61; Col. 3, Lines 40-47; Col. 4, Lines 21-27).

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7-20 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest, in addition to the accompanying features of the claims, a treated region encapsulating and untreated region of a photoresist layer, wherein this treated region does not outgas volatile organic species and prevents outgassing from the untreated region. The Applicants teach that the treated region forms a shell having uniform electrical and optical properties, thereby promoting smooth dissipation of any built-up charge, which, in turn, reduces distortion or damage, increases the accuracy of the CD measurements, and eliminates degradation of the image contrast.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

Conclusion

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Mary A. El-Shammaa whose telephone number is 703.308.0851.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30am-5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John R. Lee can be reached on 703.308.4116. The fax phone numbers for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.872.9318 for regular

communications and 703.872.9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.872.9317.

MAE

July 25, 2003

S JOHN R. LEE

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000

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